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PAGE 01 BEIJIN 40186 060353Z

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00  
DODE-00 EB-01 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16  
L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01  
P-01 SIL-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-16 TRSE-00  
USIE-00 RPE-01 CORE-00 /073W  
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P 060353Z NOV 93  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6295  
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TM/IPS/CR/JR Date: 2/4/98  
RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
( EXCISE  DECLASSIFY EO Citations  
( DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions. TS authority to:  
PA Exemptions. ( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C Sec.  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 040186

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PHUM, CH  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PENDING TRIAL OF BEIJING 16

REF: BEIJING 34687

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.
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2. THE TRIAL OF THE 16 DISSIDENTS ARRESTED JUST PRIOR TO JUNE 4, 1992 FOR FORMING A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED, ACCORDING TO A WESTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 40186 060353Z  
JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE TO THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS (STRICTLY PROTECT BOTH SOURCES.) THE CASE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RETURNED TO THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE BY THE COURT BECAUSE OF "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE." THE TWO PROSECUTORS ON THE CASE HAVE ALSO BEEN REASSIGNED TO LONG-TERM TRAINING. ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS IS REPORTEDLY OUT ON MEDICAL PAROLE.

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3. THE JOURNALIST ALSO **UNCLASSIFIED** SOURCE HAD INFORMED

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HIM THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED A DIRECTIVE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AT THE URGING OF VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN TO TAKE A "SOFTER ATTITUDE" TOWARD POLITICAL CASES, INCLUDING THE BEIJING 16, BECAUSE OF THE "FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS."

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4. COMMENT: ASSUMING THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT, CHINESE AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE SEARCHING FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS TO AVOID THIS PARTICULAR "HOT POTATO" OF A CASE, WHICH COULD DAMAGE IF NOT DERAIL IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND MAKE NEXT YEAR'S MFN DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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Page 1 of 2